

Wells, Mann, and Ledbetter Family Papers PC.189

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Davis and Fran Tracy-Walls

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

State Archives of North Carolina

July 2014

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Summary Information

Repository	State Archives of North Carolina
Title	Wells, Mann, and Ledbetter Family Papers
Date [inclusive]	1795-1876
Extent	1.0 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Newman Wells arrived in Rutherford County in the early years of the 19th century after migrating possibly from Rowan County and earlier from Chester County, South Carolina. His first marriage to Rebecca Edwards produced at least nine children, including Thomas (ca. 1794-1847); Lucretia, (ca. 1796-1851); Elizabeth Wells (ca. 1802-1863); Andrew (1804-1884); Joseph (1804-1877); and John (1810-). Lucretia was married twice, first to Anthony Harmon and second to David Mann. Elizabeth married Gloud Finley Long, whose daughter Nancy was married to Coleman Ledbetter, who enlisted during the Civil War as a private in the 25th Regiment, Company C. The family members who remained in North Carolina settled mainly in Haywood, Rutherford and Buncombe Counties.</p>
Abstract	<p>Papers consisting of correspondence (1848-1866), receipts, certifications, petitions, promissory notes, bills of sale (1795-1863), advertisements for medical treatments; two items concerning Vilet [Violet], a slave woman; and Civil War era documents including a soldier's discharge from the 25th Regiment, N.C. Troops (1862), an agriculture bond between Coleman Ledbetter and the CSA (1864), an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution (1865).</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], PC.189, Wells, Mann, and Ledbetter Family Papers, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC, USA.

Biographical/Historical note

Wells Family

Newman Wells (ca. 1770-1844) is thought to have been born in Chester County, S.C. Various family accounts state that he married his first wife, Rebecca Edwards (1770-1811) in Rowan County, N.C. At least nine children were born of this union, including Thomas (ca. 1794-1847); Lucretia, (ca. 1796-1851); Elizabeth Wells (ca. 1802-1863); Andrew (1804-1884); Joseph (1804-1877); and John (1810-) The family was living in Rutherford County when Rebecca died in 1811. Newman Wells married his second wife, Mary Bryson (1770-1856), sometime around 1820 and moved to Haywood County. Both Newman and Mary are buried in Haywood County.

Andrew and Joseph Wells are believed to have been twins. Andrew, married to Eliza Ann Deaver Wells, worked as a farmer in Haywood County. Eliza died in 1860 of what was thought to be cancer, leaving behind six children. Andrew is buried in Haywood County. Thomas and Joseph, married to Harriet Wells, moved to Rockdale County, Georgia where both are buried. Lucretia married first Anthony Harmon, 1816, in Rutherford County, and married second David Robert Mann, 1826, in Haywood County. Elizabeth married Gloud Finley Long (b. ca. 1795), Rutherford County. One of their daughters, Nancy Lucretia Long (b. ca. 1825) in Rutherford County, married Coleman W. Ledbetter (ca. 1819-1898), who died at Canton, Haywood County. Lucretia and Elizabeth Wells's youngest brother, John Wells, lived and raised a family in Texas.

Long Family

Gloud Finley (ca. 1795-1858) and Elizabeth (Wells) Long (ca. 1802-1863) were the parents of at least eight children. Many of their children and spouses are buried at the Bethel Community Cemetery, Haywood County, or the Brick Church Cemetery, Leicester, Haywood County. They include Isabella Harriett Long Brendle (ca. 1821-1858), married to Joseph Henry Brendle (ca. 1818-1897); Thomas N. Long (ca. 1823-1890) married to Elizabeth Catherine Hawkins (ca. 1825-1906); Nancy Lucretia Long Ledbetter (ca. 1825-1891) [see below]; Mary Elizabeth Long Wells (ca. 1828-1970), married to Julius Montraville Wells (ca. 1823-1873); John Finley Long (ca. 1830-1863), married to Clarissa A. Hargove; Jonathan Plott Long (ca. 1834-1864), married to Naomi A. Burnette; Rebecca Clementine Long Hargove (ca. 1836-1909) married to Rufus Pinkney Hargrove (ca.1830-1903); and Joseph F. Long (ca. 1838-), married to Elvina Mull (ca. 1838-1927).

Joseph F. Long enlisted in Haywood County at age 22 on 29 June 1861 and served as private with the 25th Regiment N.C. Troops, Company F. According to the Roster of North Carolina Troops, Joseph was present or accounted for until he deserted on 28 January 1864, but returned to duty later. He was hospitalized at Petersburg, Virginia , 23 August 1864 with a gunshot wound of the left hand; subsequently he was recorded as absent wounded or sick through February of 1865. The collection appears to have one letter from by him from Camp Davis, New Hanover County, to his sister (not named). Joseph's brother, Lieutenant Jonathan Plott Long, was part of the 62nd N.C. Infantry, Company I. He died as a prisoner and was buried at Johnson's Island Confederate Cemetery, Marblehead, Ottawa County, Ohio.

Ledbetter Family

Coleman Ledbetter (ca. 1819-1898) may have been born in Rutherford County. In 1847 he married Nancy Lucretia Long. On the 1840 United States Census they were shown living in Cleveland County and were the parents of two young children. He seems to have taught school for a period of time, farmed, and possibly worked in other occupations. He enlisted in Haywood County in a company known initially as the "Haywood Invincibles." By the time Ledbetter entered service as a private, 22 March 1862, he was 43 years of age, and part of Company C of the 25th Regiment. He was recorded as being present or accounted for until his discharge on 4 June 1862 for disability.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains notes, receipts, correspondence, and from the Wells, Mann, and Ledbetter families of Rutherford, Haywood, and Buncombe counties. Notes and Receipts ranging from 1808-1863 are mainly related to Wells and Ledbetter Family members with a few containing the Harmon and Mann name. A few receipts refer to the firm of Harmon and Wells (1819-1820), including a retail license to Anthony Harmon (1816). Correspondence ranging from 1795-1866 is a mix of letters from both families and other individuals with an unknown relationship. Of particular interest, is a battlefield letter written in 1861 from Camp Davis in New Hanover County by Joseph F. Long. He is most likely writing to his sister Nancy Long Ledbetter (whose mother was a daughter of Newman Wells). Other wartime records include a Soldier's Discharge from the 25th Regiment, Company C, N.C. Troops (to Coleman Ledbetter, 1861), an agriculture bond between Coleman Ledbetter and the Confederate States of America (1864), and an Oath of Allegiance to the United States Constitution (to Andrew Wells, 1865). Two slave notes both related to a woman named Vilet are of notable interest. The first contains separate messages on the front and back. The front is a request for her services from a J.E. Perkins, and the back is granting permission for her pass through the cove back to her mistress. The second note is a receipt for her lost time. Miscellaneous papers include a list of school rules and a doctor's prescription, letter and advertisement for cancer treatments. Correspondents include Wells family members (brothers) in Florida, Georgia, and Texas, J. Chandler, R.W. January, Thomas N. and E.L. Long, Rebecca Long, W.L. Jones, H. Hill, Joseph F. Long, Wade Hill, and A.J. Scoggin.

Collection Arrangement

According to family member then chronologically therein.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

State Archives of North Carolina July 2014

Access Restrictions

Available for research

Copyright Notice

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Acquisitions Information

First accession was a gift of Mrs. Lelie B. Clark, Asheville, N.C. 1945; addition was a gift of Sue Aceves, Whispering Pines, N.C., 2012.

Processing Information note

Processed by Jennifer Davis, NCGS Intern; and Fran Tracy-Walls

Finding Aid by Jennifer Davis, NCGS Intern; and Fran Tracy-Walls

Related Materials

Related Collections

Additional information on topics found in this collection may be found in the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) <http://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/BasicSearch.aspx>

Controlled Access Headings

Family Name(s)

- Harmon family
- Long family
- Mann family
- Wells family

Genre(s)

- loyalty oaths

Geographic Name(s)

- Buncombe County (N.C.)
- Camp Davis (New Hanover County, N.C.)
- Cleveland County (N.C.)
- Haywood County (N.C.)
- McDowell County (N.C.)
- Rutherford County (N.C.)

Personal Name(s)

- Harmon, Anthony
- Ledbetter, Coleman William
- Long, Joseph F.
- Mann, David
- Wells, Andrew
- Wells, John F.
- Wells, Joseph
- Wells, Newman

Subject(s)

- Advertising
- African Americans
- Cancer
- Civil War, 1861-1865

- Confederate States of America.Army. North Carolina. Infantry Regiment, 25th.
- Correspondence.
- Distilling industries--North Carolina
- Harmon and Wells [Merchants]
- Medicine
- Reconstruction (1865-1876)
- Schools--North Carolina
- Slaves--North Carolina--Cleveland County

Note about Original Name of Collection and Finding Aid

The original name of these papers accessioned in 1945 was the Thomas Wells Papers. Additional papers donated in 2012 were related to the the first materials, but were broader in scope and necessitated a new arrangement. The original finding aid is filed at the beginning of the collection.

Selected Sources:

Louis H. Manarin and Weymouth T. Jordan Jr., comps., North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1966-), 7: 378, 413. North Carolina Marriage Collection, 1741-2004; U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900, via Ancestry, Library Edition; United States Federal Census, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870. Various cemetery records of the Long and extended families in Haywood County cemeteries, via findagrave.com; and family histories available on the Internet, including "Wells Families of Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware," contact H. Jack Wells, and "My Faubion, Wells, [et al] Families from Buncombe Co. NC & Cocke Co. Tennessee," contact: Carolyn Whitaker, viewed 11/5/2012 on RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project website.

Newman Wells,

Collection Inventory

Newman Wells, 1795-1838

Promissory notes, tax receipts, miscellaneous receipts, judgement and summons, and petition to transfer still.

Box**Folder**

PC.189.1

1

Notes and Receipts, 1803-1838

Receipts include tax receipts and payments for debt and promissory notes.

Folder

2

Judgement and Summons, 1806-1829

3

Petition and Certification, 1795, 1822

16 March 1795, certification of sale of corn to N. Wells from John Hutchens

14 May 1822, petition for still from Newman Wells to Mr. Pace

Andrew Wells, 1827-1876

Andrew Wells,

Correspondence, directions for treatment of cancer, tax receipt, tax assessment of agricultural products, miscellaneous receipts, promissory notes, and Oath of Allegiance.

Correspondence includes letters from brothers in Florida, Georgia, and Texas.

Folder

4

Notes and Receipts, 1827-1879

Receipts include tax receipts and payments for debt and promissory notes.

5

Promissory Note to Eliza Long, 1857

6

Oath of Allegiance, 1865

4 September 1865, Oath of Allegiance to the United States Constitution, Andrew Wells, Haywood County

7

Correspondence, 1844-1876

Post 1844, W. Wells, Walton County Florida, to Andrew Wells

21 December 1858, J. Chandler to R.H. Penland, re: Andrew Wells

10 October 1859, directions in the treatment of cancer from R.W. January

22 February 1860, from R.W. January, Murfreesboro, Tenn. to Andrew Wells

February ca. 1865, to Brother from J.A. Wells, writes, "I cannot foresee how the free labour system will work, but I think it will do rather badly, at least for a time neither master nor slave seems to be in his [proper element]."

Joseph Wells,

21 July 1871, from Joseph and Harriet Wells, Rockdale County, Georgia, to Andrew Wells

22 October 1876, from J.A. Wells and family, La Vernia, Texas, to Andrew Wells, Pigeon Valley, describes the “clouds of grasshoppers” that “present the appearance of volumes of smoke high up in the elements.”

Joseph Wells, 1817-1846

Receipts include tax receipts and payments for debt and promissory notes.

Folder

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Notes and Receipts, 1817-1846

John F. Wells, 1873**Folder**

9

Notice to Vacate Land, Signed by John F. Wells, 1873

16 July 1873, notice to vacate land to George A. Mark, Buncombe County, signed by John F. Wells

Coleman Ledbetter, 1841-1872

Promissory note, judgment, examination to teach school, slave receipts, correspondence, tax assessment of Agricultural products, Soldier's Discharge, and Confederate States of America Agriculture Bond.

Coleman Ledbetter,

	Folder
Notes and Receipts, 1846-1864	10
Receipts include tax receipts and payments for debt and promissory notes.	
Vilet [Violet], Woman Slave, Notes Regarding, 1844	11
24 December 1844, Note requesting that Vilet [Violet?] come back next week, signed J.E. Perkins. On back of paper: Permission granted to Vilet to pass to the cove to her mistress, signed J.E. Perkins	
13 July, lost wages for Vilet	
Exam to Teach School, 1849	12
25 July 1849, C. Ledbetter found competent to teach school in District Number 33, signed Ellis	
Confederate soldier's disability certificate, discharge, 25th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, 1862	13
4 June 1862, to Coleman Ledbetter, "by reason of a Surgeon's Certificate of disability to perform the duties of a soldier", given at Kinston, North Carolina, signed by Wesley N. Freeman, Captain, 25th North Carolina Troops, Commanding Company C.	
Confederate States of America, Bond of Payment, Agriculturist, 1864	14

1 July 1864, Bond for Payment for Agriculturist, Haywood County Extension-
Confederate States of America, Coleman Ledbetter

15

Court Records, 1841-1872

19 March 1841, Summons, Rutherford County 15 March 1845, Judgment, McDowell
County

18 February 1858, affidavit regarding land, Haywood County 26 June 1872, complaint
filed, Buncombe County, "that Merit Parham assaulted and beat the son of Coleman
Ledbetter."

16

Correspondence, 1848-1867

9 January 1848, Thomas N. & E.L. Long, Haywood County, to Coleman & N.L.
Ledbetter

21 March 1853, Rebecca Long, Pigeon Valley, to Coleman and Nancy Lucretia
Ledbetter

4 June 1854, Thomas N. & E.L. Long, Haywood County to Coleman and Nancy L.
Ledbetter

17 November 1859, W.L. Jones, Rutherford County, to Mr. Ledbetter

9 January 1861, from H. Hill, Cleveland County, to Coleman Ledbetter, with comment
"there is great excitement hear [sic] about secession."

1861, about the 11th Nov., from Joseph F. Long, Camp Davis, New Hanover County, to
Sister

2 November 1863, Note to save bunches of thread from J. Brendle to Coleman Ledbetter

Anthony Harmon,

2 January 1866, From Wade Hill, Cleveland County, to Brother and Sister Ledbetter, notes "The negros generally has left thare former masters & are doing for them selves & stealing right ahead."

21 March 1867, From A.J. Scoggin, Mooresboro, to Coleman Ledbetter

Anthony Harmon, 1811-1823

Receipts include tax receipts and payments for debt and promissory notes. A few receipts refer to the firm of Harmon and Wells, including a retail license to Anthony Harmon.

Folder

17

Notes and Receipts, 1811-1823

David Mann, 1828-1854

Receipts include tax receipts and payments for debt and promissory notes.

Folder

18

Notes and Receipts, 1828-1854

Miscellaneous, 1849-1864

Contents contains advertisments for medicines, school rules, newspaper clipping, and various papers belonging to individuals with an unknown relationship to the primary family.

Folder

Miscellaneous,

19

Medical Advertisements, ca. 1860

ca. 1861, Cancer Cured! Advertisement

ca. 1860, Frey's Vermifuge Advertisement for dewormer

20

School Rules, ca. 1849

21

Oath (form), List for Taxation, ca. 1800's

22

Newspaper Clipping of Gideon Welles, ca. 1860's

23

Correspondence, n.d.

From E.A. Robeson to J. A. Sloop

24

Receipt for Confederate Bond, 1864

25 March 1864, Confederate Bond issued to Joseph Gunter for \$100

25

List of Accounts, ca. 1800's